

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07427 251650 Z

47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

/164 W

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R 251635 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5175
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7427

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN TARIFF CHANGES

REF: STATE 122730

1. ACCORDING S. K. BAGCHI, JOINT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, GOI HAS INFORMED GATT OF A) ALL CHANGES IN BOUND RATES, B) NEW AUXILIARY DUTIES AND C) NEW LIST OF ITEMS UNDER EMBARGO. IT HAS NOT INFORMED OF OTHER CHANGES IN CUSTOMS DUTIES WHICH INTRODUCED WITH 73-74 BUDGET AND WHICH NOT COVERED BY GATT BINDINGS. FIVE COPIES OF NEW LIST OF ITEMS UNDER EMBARGO BEING POUCHED UNDER TRANSMITTAL SLIP TO JOHN RENNER, EB/ OT. DETAILED INFORMATION ON OTHER IMPORTANT CHANGES CONTAINED IN NEW DELHI REFTEL CITED IN STATE REFTEL. (SEE ALSO NEW DELHI 3895, PARA 9)

2. BAGCHI SAID GOI STILL HAS NOT MADE DECISION ON HOW TO HANDLE GATT PROBLEM CREATED BY NEW AUXILIARY DUTIES. HE INDICATED THAT GOI WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT GATT CONSENSUS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 07427 251650 Z

WHETHER TO BLANKET THEM UNDER EXISTING GATT WAIVER OR GO FOR NEW WAIVER.

3. FORE FUNDAMENTALLY, INDIA ACTS AS THOUGH ITS LONG- STANDING (1967) INVOCATION OF ARTICLE XII JUSTIFIES JUST ABOUT ANY ACTION IT TAKES TO LIMIT IMPORTS. SPECIFICALLY, BAGCHI SAID THAT ITS RECENT EMBARGO ACTIONS WERE JUSTIFIED BY ARTICLE XII, ALONG WITH OTHER EMBARGO ACTIONS IN RECENT YEARS.

4. WE HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENTS TO OFFER BEYOND THOSE IN OUR 4324 (REF F OF REFTEL).

5. BAGCHI IS LEAVING FOR GENEVA TONIGHT AND BRINGING WITH HIM K. NARASIMHAN, TARIFF MEMBER OF CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE. NARASIMHAN WILL BE IN GENEVA FROM JUNE 26 THROUGH 29 SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANSWERING TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON INDIA'S TARIFF CHANGES, ESPECIALLY THOSE CONNECTED WITH FORTHCOMING SHIFT TO BRUSSELS TARIFF NOMENCLATURE, FOR WHICH LEGISLATION CURRENTLY PENDING IN PARLIAMENT. BAGCHI SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT FURTHER CHANGES IN ACCOMPLISHING SHIFT OVER TO BTN TO HAVE REVENUE EFFECTS, BUT FINANCE MINISTRY MIGHT INSIST ON SOME DEPENDING ON REVENUE SITUATION AT TIME.

SCHNEIDER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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